(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Government have issued guidelines for Commissioned Programmes on January 1, 1992 since amended on 17th March, 1992.

Linking of Capital Cities with Third Channel

1274. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to link 16 capital cities in the country with third Doordarshan Channel ; and

(b) if so, when the third channel is likely to start transmission of the programmes in near future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Changes in Doordarshan Programe

1275. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken on the recommendations of the committee headed by Additional Secretary, S. C. Mahalik about changes in Doordarshan programme formate ; if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) whether Government are considering restructuring of national programmes and carving out a four hour entertainment lot in afternoon ; if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A suggestion for restructuring of the National Programme and carving out a four hour entertainment slot is contained in the Report of the Committee set up to make recommendations for increasing Dordarshan's commercial revenue.

Programme for Second Doordarshan Channel by Private Agencies

1276. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to engage private agencies on a time slot basis to produce programmes for the second Doordarshan channel till the recommendations of the Vardan and Damodaran Committee on "competition in electronic media" are implemented ;

(b) if so, the details of the private agencies which have shown interest for the said task ;

(c) by when Government would take a decision in this regard ; and

(d) to what extent the steps of Government would check the invasion of foreign networks in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (c) The modalities of a scheme for allotting time slots to private producers on the metro channels of Doordarshan is being worked out. This is also part of the recommendation of Varadan Committee for *Inter Alia*, bringing competition in electronic media.

(b) While Government have not formally invited any proposals, 74 private agencies have evinced interest in the matter so far.

(d) Doordarshan constantly endeavours to bring about a qualitative improvement in its programme content and format so as to sustain the interest of its viewers.